

CLUB NOTES

After the excitement of the F.A. Cup we today return to league football and in so doing welcome Hertford Town to the Croydon Area. We must press hard for the points if we are to maintain our challenge at the top of the table.

What a week it has been with our two games against Wycombe Wanderers. In the re-play at Loakes Park on Tuesday our lads fought well and the result of 5-2 certainly flattered the home side. They took an important early lead but we gradually settled down after the keeper had made a good save from Clif Hall; we equalised when Les Setters headed in from a corner.

Wycombe struck back and took the lead again when another head down from one of their tall defenders pushed up for a corner, enabling a forward to put past Dave Cobb. Then just before half-time came the incident which really decided the game when they converted a very debatable penalty for "hands".

We still continued to play our football in spite of this reverse and Bernie Merron put us back in the game when he beat a defender in a tackle from a through ball and coolly lobbed the ball over the advancing keeper. Wycombe, however, were not to be denied and scored two more to earn the right to meet Bedford in the second round. It was typical of the spirit in which our team stuck to their task that the game ended when we carved out another opening by excellent approach work but, unfortunately, biazed the ball over the bar from close range. Thus ended two fine cup-ties in which the team earned generous praise from the Wycombe Club and the Referee thanked both teams for the hard but clean manner in which the games were played.

What an uplift the large crowds gave us! Our home gate of over 1,300 was the best we have had for some years whilst at Wycombe the turnstiles recorded 2,664. Last Saturday proved that Croydon will support us if the occasion is right.

What did we learn? A few lessons in dealing with larger than usual crowds. Yes - but our loyal band of helpers were splendid. On the field we learnt that this type of opposition makes you pay for your mistakes. We also realise that we are now strong enough to hold our own in the first Division. It is up to us to seize our opportunity and get there.